

## **Public Television Station Digital Transition Grant Program**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Question:** If I can find the National School Lunch Program eligibility percentages for my project on a state website, do I still need to include in my application a contact person's name to enable USDA to verify the eligibility percentages?

**Answer:** Many states now post NSLP eligibility percentages on websites. If your percentages are on a state-sponsored website, you may print a copy of the page and include it in your application, and you do not need to provide contact information. Information from unofficial sites, such as commercial websites that report school data, is not acceptable.

**Question:** I am requesting content management equipment in my application that will benefit all viewers in my state network. I deliver signal using three transmitters and six translators. I understand that I need to base my Rurality and NSLP scoring on the entire broadcast area. Exactly how do I do that?

**Answer:** You will need to find the core coverage area for each individual transmitter and translator, compute Rurality and NSLP scores for each, and average them to find the system Rurality and NSLP scores. These system scores would be the same as if you were requesting grant funds to do a complete transition in all nine transmitting devices.

**Question:** I am requesting funds to replace three translators that serve areas within the same county, and none of the three serves 75% of any other county. The county contains one town of 21,000, and one transmitter serves this town, but the other two serve outlying areas. Would the Rurality and NSLP scores for all three will be the same?

**Answer:** It is best to find the core coverage area for each transmitter/translator individually. Remember, if an urban area is completely inside a transmitter/translator's coverage contour on file with the FCC, it influences the Rurality and NSLP scores. If it is completely outside the coverage contour, or if the coverage contour boundary bisects the urban area, the urban area does not influence the Rurality and NSLP scores. In our example, two translators do not serve the town and are entirely rural, so their core coverage area is the county, with the urban area ignored. The third translator, which serves the town, has the appropriately-reduced Rurality and NSLP scores. The project Rurality and NSLP scores are the simple averages of these respective scores.

**Question:** When I am finding a system score and have to average several transmitter/translator scores, should I weight them so that the more populous broadcast areas have greater influence over the outcome?

**Answer:** No, in this program we deliberately do not use weighted averages. The guidance Congress has given the program in appropriations language shows that the intent is for rural areas to receive consideration regardless of whether the applicant also serves urban areas. Weighted averages cause urban areas to overwhelm rural areas on average.

**Question:** Will my application be considered "on time" if I ship it via FedEx on Monday, May 15?

**Answer:** If you ship your application on Monday, May 15, (this year's deadline for application), and the application carries evidence from the shipper that it was shipped on that date, your application will be considered "on time" even if it is delivered to USDA a week or so later. If you want assurance that you can demonstrate that your application was shipped on time, we recommend that you deliver your package to a staffed location so that you can obtain a receipt. Remember, evidence not under the control of a shipper, such as a stamp from a postage meter or a shipping label completed by the applicant, is not proof of shipping by the deadline.

**Question:** Page 9 of the Application Guide requests that the applicant attach a resolution of the board of the directors of the public television station to the Form 424. My board does not meet until May 30. What exactly is required here?

**Answer:** We are looking for evidence that the party signing the Form 424 is authorized to commit the organization in legal documents. The resolution does not have to be specific to this grant program - usually there exists a board resolution that has given signature authority to specific individuals. The board resolution should state that the person signing the Form 424 is an authorized representative of the television station and has the ability to obligate the organization.

**Question:** Is adding just datacasting an eligible purpose?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** Is software used for eligible equipment an eligible purpose?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** Is local origination equipment an eligible purpose.

**Answer:** Yes. Remember, any capability that will benefit more than one transmitter/translator area will be scored based on the transmitters/translators core coverage areas benefiting.